

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawing include changes to Figs. 1, 4 and 6. These sheets, which include Figs. 1, 4 and 6 replaced the original sheets including Figs. 1, 4 and 6. In the amended Figs. 1, 4 and 6, the phrase "power lines" has been amended to "electrical wiring". In addition, in the amended Fig. 6, the missing reference numerals have been added to identify various elements. It is respectfully submitted that there is sufficient support for the amended Figs. 1, 4 and 6 in the specification.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 4 and 7 – 9 to specify various embodiments of the present invention and overcome the rejection. In addition, the specification has been amended to rephrase certain expressions and correct clerical errors. The Figs. 1, 4 and 6 of the drawings have been amended to correct certain informalities and rephrase certain expressions. The amendment is editorial in nature. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claims, specification and drawings. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1 – 4 and 6 – 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as allegedly being anticipated by Modeste et al. (US 2003/0056012 A1), hereinafter Modeste.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the present-claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference. The embodiments of the present invention as presently defined in Claims 1 – 4 and 6 – 9 as amended are different from the disclosure in Modeste. The embodiments of the present invention as amended include the step of preparing a main board provided in an individual house to selectively connect to the INTERNET, wherein the main board will remain off-line with respect to the INTERNET when it has not been activated. In the amended Claim 9, the main board further has a power line modem which engages with household electrical power so that the main board is able to control the various household electrical appliances through an indoor electrical wiring.

Modeste discloses a system using a continuous cyber link connection between embedded controllers in devices installed in a home and server facilities on the World Wide Web by using a gateway with broadband connectivity to the Internet (see paragraph

[0003] of Modeste). The gateway server at the user's home provides a personal web site for the networking and home automation functionalities that obtain with respect to the home and its installed devices. Through the web site, the user can use a PC and/or other access tools to access the installed devices in the home through the Internet and proceed to communicate with the devices.

The differences between Modeste and the embodiment of present invention as amended are explained in detail in the following paragraphs.

At first, Modeste provides a gateway to permit Internet connectivity 24 hours a day. Each home is accessed through a specific and fixed IP address, and such access is over an Internet connection that uses a high-speed pathway such as provided by DSL or cable (see paragraph [0034] of Modeste). However, the embodiment of the present invention as presented provides a gateway which connected with the Internet, and it is initialized only when a phone call is made to activate the gateway, which means that the gateway remains off-line with respect to the Internet when it has not been activated. When being linked to the Internet, the gateway will retrieve a pre-registered IP address from a specific DSN. Therefore, the IP address of the embodiment of the present invention as amended is dynamic. Since the connection between the gateway and the Internet of the embodiment of the present invention remains off-line when it has not been activated, the cost of the Internet connection can be reduced significantly and kept as low as possible. This is different from Modeste, which provides Internet connectivity 24 hours a day. As a result, the cost of Internet connectivity remains high. In addition, each home has its own fixed IP address, which could also result in a high control cost since the source of the IP address is limited.

Secondly, although Modeste provides a gateway interface connection between the Internet and a user's home via a website that can be accessed from an Internet-connected PC or other server facilities (refer to paragraph [004] of Modeste), Modeste didn't provide a method or facilities which proceed with an input signal by a telephone call to initialize the main board (gateway) to connect with the Internet as does the embodiment

of the present invention. Moreover, the embodiment of the present invention provides a data confirmation step by inputting a predetermined password when the telephone call is made, in order to initialize the main board (gateway) to connect with the Internet.

Thirdly, Modeste provides a gateway to couple an RS232 data link to a home automation controller. Various installed devices are coupled to the controller in the gateway via a wireless link such as an RF signal link or a serial/parallel data port hard-wired connection (refer to paragraph [036] of Modeste). However, the embodiment of the present invention provides a power line modem in a main board (gateway) which engages with the household electrical power so that the main board is able to control household electrical appliances through the indoor electrical wiring. By using the existed power wiring in each individual house, the controlling code can be transmitted more reliably and steadily compared with Modeste. On the other hand, the embodiment of the present invention uses the existing electrical wiring in the house as a medium to transmit the control code, thereby eliminating the use an extra hard wire or wireless facilities which are connected to the gateway. As a result, the installation of the present invention would be more convenient than Modeste.

Due to these differences, Modeste does not disclose or teach the embodiments of the present invention as defined in Claims 1 – 4 and 6 – 9. Therefore, the newly presented claims are not anticipated by Modeste and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Modeste in view of Hayes et al. (US 6,480,568), hereinafter Hayes.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the embodiments of present-claimed invention are not obvious over Modeste in view of Hayes. As stated

above, the embodiment of the present invention as presently defined in Claim 1 is different from the disclosure in Modeste. Claim 5 also includes these differences due to its dependency on Claim 1.

Hayes discloses a remote initiation of communications for control of multiple appliances by telephone, which utilizes Caller ID supplied by a local telephone service supplier, and where such Caller ID service is unavailable, user can generate Caller ID tones and simultaneous Fax pilot tones and data transmission, to signal to a device to be controlled or to a receiving station that instructions are received and communication is required. Hayes has disclosed a telephone remote system controlled by a "Caller Identification" technology, in combination with voice band and other sound signals. However, Hayes fails to disclose a gateway that remains off-line with respect to the Internet when it has not been activated, which is stated in embodiment of the present invention. In addition, Hayes has not disclosed a method to initialize the main board (gateway) to activate it to connect to the Internet by making a phone call. Further, Hayes has not disclosed the use of household power wiring to transmit the control code to further control the appliances in an individual house. Therefore, Hayes is different from the embodiment of the present invention. Due to these differences, there is no motivation to combine Modeste and Hayes to achieve the present invention as defined in Claim 5. Even if they were combined, they would not achieve the embodiment of the present invention as defined in Claim 5.

Therefore, the newly presented claims are not obvious over Modeste in view of Hayes and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Regarding the other references made of record, Chen (US 2004/0047358 A1) discloses an integrated phone-based gateway system, which includes a broadband communication device, such as "DSL", an analog modem, and a wireless interface, integrated into a screen-phone for providing broadband communication service to home users. However, Chen has not disclosed a gateway that remains off-line with respect to

the Internet when it has not been activated. In addition, Chen has not disclosed a method to initialize the main board (gateway) to activate it to connect to the Internet by making a phone call. Further, Chen has not disclosed the use of household electrical wiring to transmit the control code to further control the appliances in an individual house. Therefore, Chen is significantly different from the embodiment of the present invention.

Similarly, Natalini (US 2002/0095269 A1) discloses an appliance monitoring system for use with household appliances that include a subsystem for continuously monitoring the operations of one or more appliances and a gateway through which the subsystems communicate with a remote center that oversees the servicing of the appliances. However, Natalini has not disclosed a gateway that remains off-line with respect to the Internet when it has not been activated. In addition, Natalini has not disclosed a method to initialize the main board (gateway) to activate it to connect to the Internet by making a phone call. Furthermore, Natalini has not disclosed the use of household power wiring to transmit the control code to further control the appliances in an individual house. Therefore, Natalini is also different from the embodiment of the present invention as amended.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

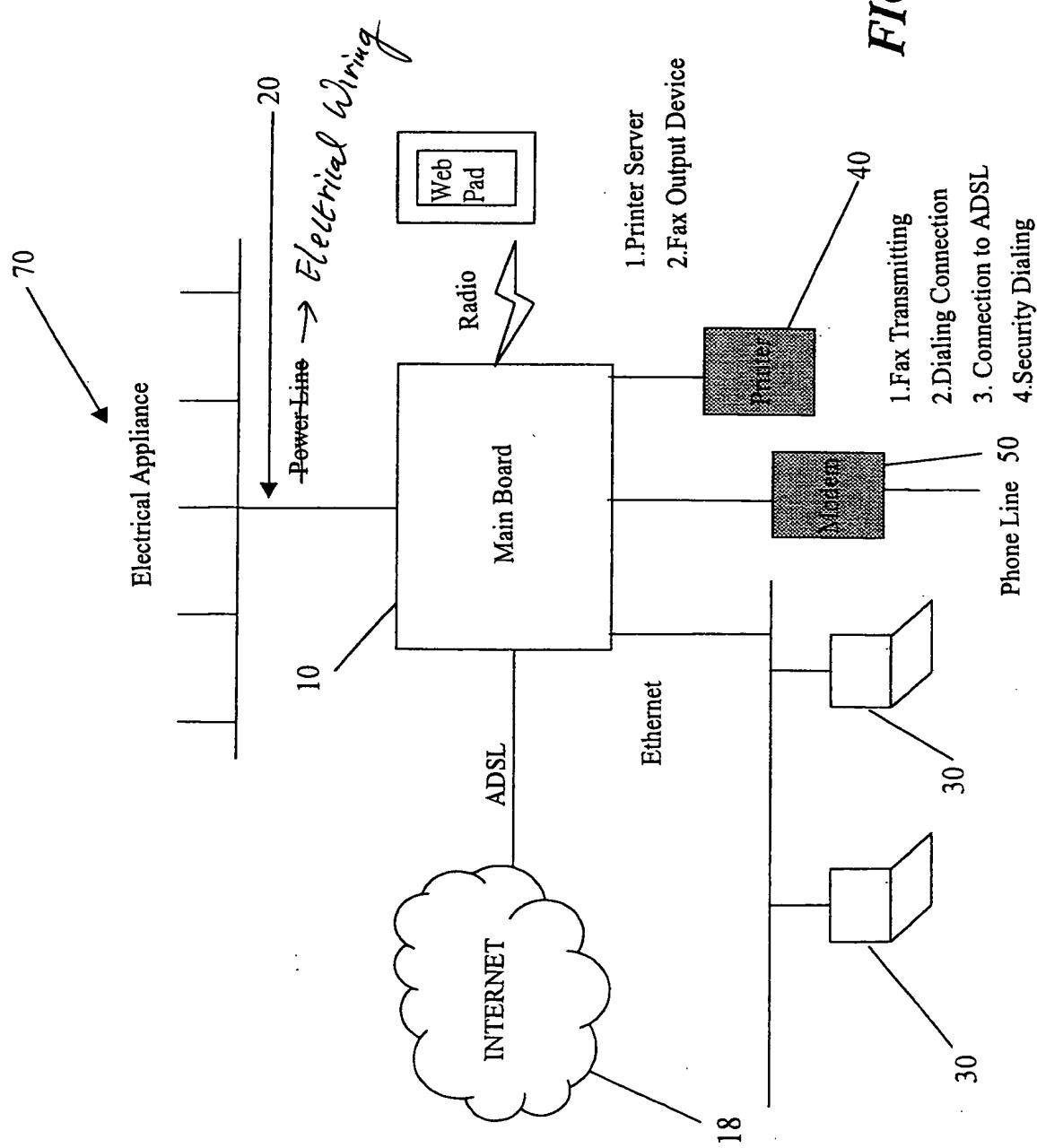
JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

Date: May 10, 2005
(202) 638-6666
400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Atty. Dkt. No.: P67555US0

By John C. Holman
John C. Holman
Registration No. 22,769

Appl. No. 10/046,700
Amdt. Dated May 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 10, 2005
Annotated Sheet 1 Showing Changes

MAY 10 2005



Appl. No. 10/046,700
Amdt. Dated May 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 10, 2005
Annotated Sheet 2 Showing Changes

O P E R A T I O N
MAY 10 2005
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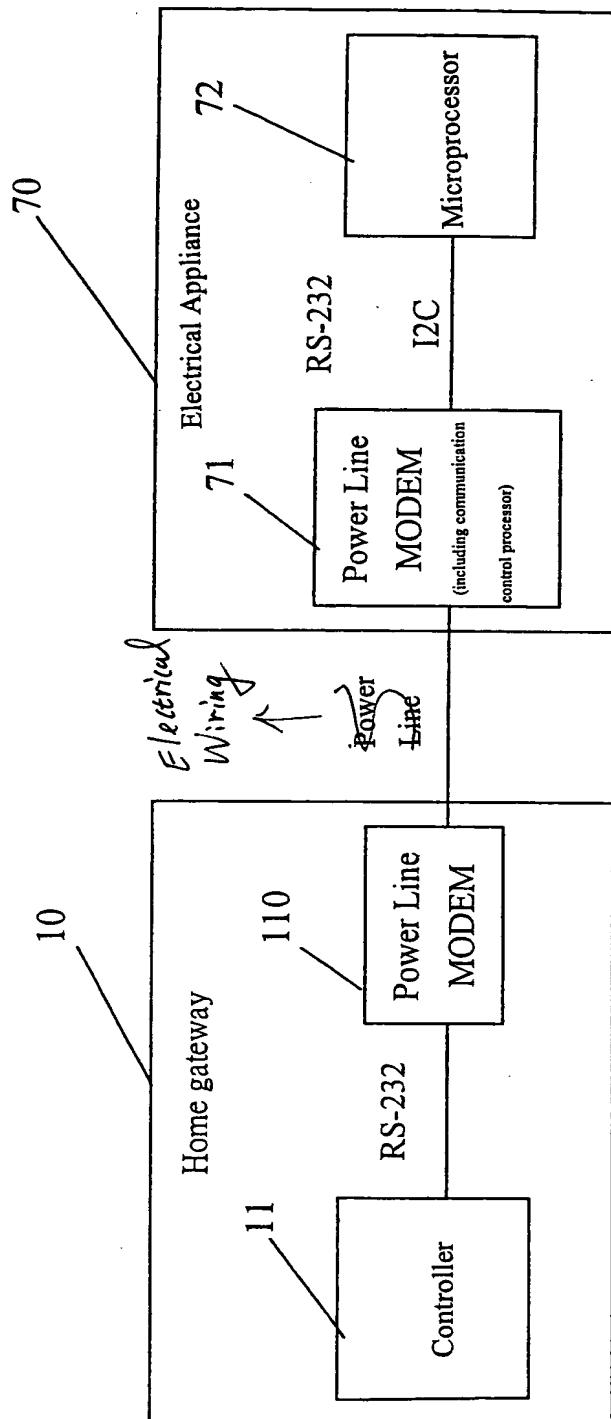


FIG. 4

Appl. No. 10/046,700
Amdt. Dated May 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 10, 2005
Annotated Sheet 3 Showing Changes

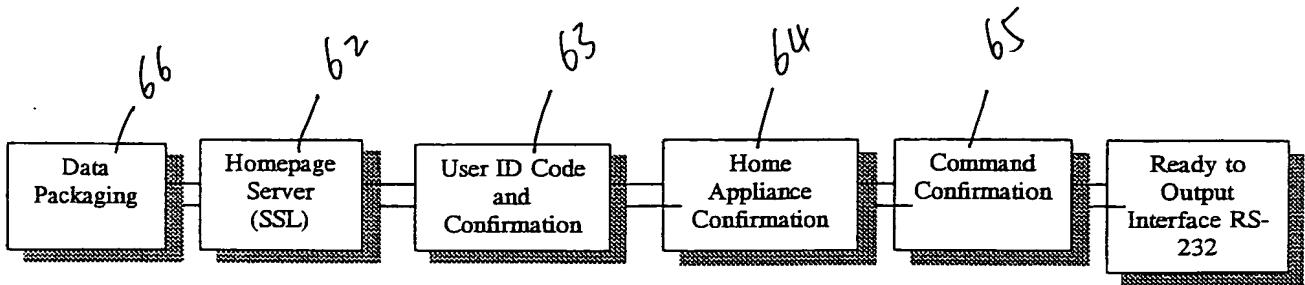


FIG. 6